

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 14249 151028Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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S E C R E T BEIRUT 14249

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: GALLAGHER/DYKES KIDNAPPING

REF: BEIRUT 14246

1. STILL HAVE NOT HEARD FROM INFORMANT "B". THIS IS ANNOYING BUT NOT DISTURBING IN THAT AT LEAST AS FAR AS GALLAGHER/DYKES HEALTH IS CONCERNED NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS.

2. BELIEVE YESTERDAY WAS INTERESTING IN THAT IT CULMINATED 48 HOURS OF RATHER INTENSIVE PRESSURE. FOR THE FIRST TIME I CANNOT HELP BUT BE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT WITHIN THE NEXT 4 TO 6 DAYS WE MAY HAVE GALLAGHER/DYKES BACK WITH US. THIS IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

(A) DEFAT WAS RECEIVED BY KAMAL JUMBLATT. ABBAS KHALAF DID NOT REPEAT NOT PARTICIPATE BUT WAS AT JUMBLATT'S HOME DURING MEETING. KAMAL JUMBLATT EXPRESSED PERSONAL DISTRESS AND ABHORRENCE OF KIDNAPPING, PROMISING TO DO WHAT HE COULD.

(B) LAST EVENING MEETING TOOK PLACE BETWEEN AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TOWARD COL. MORGAN'S RELEASE AND ISSAM EL ARAB. LATTER CLAIMED HE DID NOT HAVE GALLAGHER/DYKES BUT "THOUGHT HE KNEW WHERE THEY WERE" AND WOULD SEE WHAT HE

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COULD DO ABOUT GETTING THEM RELEASED. (COMMENT. FACE SAVING)

(C) THE PAPAL NUNCIO TELEPHONE ME THIS MORNING TO SAY THAT HE PERSONALLY SPOKE YESTERDAY TO ARAFAT, EXPRESSING HIS "DUTY AND RIGHT" AS DOYEN TO OBTAIN RETURN GALLAGHER/DYKES. ARAFAT STATED HE HAD QUOTE SEEN THESE MEN TWO OR THREE TIMES AND COULD REASSURE NUNCIO AS TO THEIR GOOD HEALTH AND THAT THEY WERE GETTING MEDICINE FROM THE EMBASSY". COMMENT: LATTER LIE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT WE BELIEVE, NULLIFY OTHER REMARKS MADE BY ARAFAT. END COMMENT.

ACCORDING TO NUNCIO, ARAFAT ALLEGED THERE ARE "ONLY A FEW MORE THINGS TO ESTABLISH RE THEIR IDENTITY" BEFORE THEY CAN BE RE-LEASED."

COMMENT: ANOTHER LIE OF COURSE BUT WE BELIEVE MERELY FACE SAVING FOR ARAFAT, WHO COULD ONLY WITH DIFFICULTY ADMIT HIS LACK OF CONTROL OVER THOSE HOLDING GALLAGHER/DYKES. END COMMENT.

NUNCIO SAID NEITHER HE NOR CARDINAL SPOKE TO JUMBLATT WHO HE SAID WAS "NOT IN A GOOD MOOD". THIS IS OF SMALL IMPORT HOWEVER IN VIEW OF THE GOOD TALK THE DEFATT HAD WITH HIM.

(D) HAVE NOTHING MORE TO REPORT RE OTHER ACTIONS LISTED PARA 5 REFTEL. HOWEVER, IF NOTHING IS BROKEN BY MONDAY EMBOFF WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY APPROACHED BY KGB COS WILL SPEAK TO HIM RE GALLAGHER/DYKES.

3. I BELIEVE MAXIMUM PRESSURE NOW BEING APPLIED. AS OF THE MOMENT I CAN THINK OF NO MORE THAT NEED BE BROUGHT TO BEAR.
GODLEY

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NNN

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